IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 97,008-U)

In re Application of:	)	
	)	
Copeland et al.	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 1743
Serial No.: 09/452,309	)	
	)	Examiner: Bex
Filed : December 1, 1999	)	
	)	
For: AUTOMATED BIOLOGICAL	)	
REACTION APPARATUS	)	

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231-9999

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This prior art statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98 in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicants respectfully request that this statement together with the attached Form PTO-1449 and accompany references be placed in the file for the subject application.

In the judgment of the undersigned, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 may be material to the Examiner's consideration of the presently pending claims. However, the references have not been reviewed in sufficient detail to make any other representation and, in particular, no representation is intended as to the relative relevance between references, whether cited in this statement or prior statements. This statement is not a representation that the listed references have effective dates early enough to be "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested the documents

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cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which are not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that they be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing on Form PTO-1449. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.
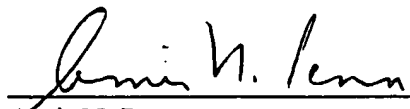
CITED REFERENCES

U.S. Patents

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,678,752, published July 7, 1987.
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,729,661, published March 8, 1988.
3. U.S. Patent No. 4,855,109, published August 8, 1989.
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,051,238, published September 24, 1991.
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,229,074, published July 20, 1993.
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,646,046, published July 8, 1997.
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,656,493, published August 12, 1997.

Respectfully submitted,

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

Dated: May 10, 2001

Amir N. Penn
Registration No. 40,767

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FORM PTO-1449 (Rev. 2-32)	U.S. Department of Comm rc Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. 97,008-U	Serial No. 09/452,309
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant: Copeland et al.	
		Filing Date: August 5, 1997	Group: 1743

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appr priate
	1	U.S. Patent No. 4,678,752	07/07/87	Thorne et al.			
	2	U.S. Patent No. 4,729,661	03/08/88	Bell			
	3	U.S. Patent No. 4,855,109	08/08/89	Muraishi et al.			
	4	U.S. Patent No. 5,051,238	09/24/91	Umetsu et al.			
	5	U.S. Patent No. 5,229,074	07/20/93	Heath et al.			
	6	U.S. Patent No. 5,646,046	07/08/97	Fischer et al.			
	7	U.S. Patent No. 5,656,493	08/12/97	Mullis et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc).

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication.